A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, July 19. 1709.

IT has been wonder'd, I know, and the Queſtion has been often put to me, why theſe poor *Palatinate* Refugees are not ſent forward to our Colonies in *America*, where they were in Expectation of being ſent; and whether they were told they ſhould go, as appears by a Letter ſent me laſt Week, and which I publiſh'd in my laſt?

I ſhall not pretend to anſwer the Queſtion directly, and ſay, why they are not ſent; but I ſhall ſpeak to it two Ways—— Our Colonies are divided into two Kinds, the Iſlands, and the Continent. I'll tell you, why ſome People are againſt ſending them to the laſt; and I'll tell you, why I am againſt ſending them to the firſt.

Some Gentlemen are of the Opinion, that if you ſend ſuch a Number of induſtrious labouring People as theſe are, to our Colonies on the Continent, they ſhall injure our Trade——

They ſay, that the Produce of Land in our Colonies, ſuch as *New England*, *New York*, the *Jerſeys*, *Penſilvania*, *Maryland*, *Virginia*, *Carolina*, *&c.* is already more than the Commerce can conſume—— They tell you, the Tobacco's of *Virginia* and *Maryland* are ſo prodigiouſly encreas'd in Quantity, and more every Day planting, that thoſe Plantations are evidently declining; and Foreign Nations, ſuch as the *Dutch Gueldre*, the *Saxons*, and *Sileſians*, the *Poles*, but eſpecially the *Circaſſians*, Subjects to the

the Czar of *Muscovy*, do now plant so much Tobacco of their own, and so fully supply their Neighbours with it—That our Export to the *Baltick* sensiby declines, and in a little time more will be quite lost. That the Consequence of this will be, that the People of *Virginia*, lessening their Plantation of Tobacco, and converting the Lands to the common Uses of Family-Subsistence, the Multitude of Hands, now employ'd in planting *Tobacco*, will necessarily want Work; and the Consequence of that will be, that they will fall into our *English* Manufactures—And so invade that noble Branch of our Trade to *America*, I mean our Exportation of Woollen Goods, on which the great Article of our Trade depends.

As to *New England*, *New York*, *New Jersey*, and *Pensilvania*, the great Produce of these Countries, and indeed the Main of their Trade, are Horses, Flower or Meal, Peas, Beef, Pork, Fish, and Beer———These they send to the Islands, where they plant little or none, but depend upon these Colonies for their very common Supply—Their Trade to *England* is small, compar'd to this; the Furrs and Skins of Beasts, which was their first and great Wealth, is sunk low in Quantity; the Beaver sunk entirely here in its Demand—The Timber and Deal Trade *lies in the Birth, and has no Strength to bring forth.* I hope, I may allude to the Text in it; for it seems to be furnish'd by Providence as an inestimable Treasure to enrich this Nation, and enlarge those Colonies, and GOD has not yet given us a Spirit to undertake it—But in Opposition to the strong Summons given us by our Reason and our Intereft, we let it lie neglected—For which, I doubt not, our Posterity will call us Fools; and prove us so, by being wiser themselves.

Now it is evident, that our Islands not encreasing in Trade, *nor indeed can they encrease*, and the Produce of the Continent encreasing every Year, by planting and curing larger Tracts of Land, to which they have no Bounds; as the Quantity already is sufficient to supply the Colonies, that Quantity encreasing must glut that Trade—and the Provisions want a Vent—The Consequence of this, SAY THEY, must be the Stop of planting, and turning their Hands to our own Manufactures, especially when you come to plant more People among them.

This is the Opinion of these Gentlemen, that argue against settling them upon our Colonies on the Continent of *America*—I confess, I do not agree with them in Judgment; I shall take a Time to set my Reasons down at large——But at present I name only this; I humbly conceive, that neither the Export of their Produce is yet fully extended, nor is their best Produce yet fully examin'd——And whenever you shall think fit to make Laws of Commerce here, suitable to the encouraging your Colonies on the Continent of *America*, they have yet Treasures of Trade, which are hitherto hardly open'd, by which they shall both enrich us and employ themselves, to much more Advantage than erecting our Manufactures there—Nor can it be suggested, that while the Price of Mens Labour is at the Rate of 4 *d.* and 5 *d. per diem*, any Invasion can be made upon our Manufactures to our Detriment.

Again, I'll take the Liberty to state one Case, that shall overthrow the whole Notion——As you trade now to your Colonies, you advance upon your Manufactures, generally speaking, 100 *per Cent.* and your Exchange of Monies, that little that runs, is generally at 35. 40. and 45 *per Cent.*——And the Reason of this is evident, because the small Returns they have to make you of their own Produce directly for *England*, makes the Loss home, to require the great Profit outward.

Now, while your Manufactures sell there to so large an Advance, and the poor People consequently buy them very dear, there may be some Encouragement for them to make their own Goods, and so hurt our Manufactures—But if these Colonies, by the Improvement of their Produce, should find a Way to make their Return to us, larger than our Export to them, the Case would immediately alter; for as the Value of their Goods here would lessen the Loss home, so the Export out would fall in its Advance—And the Profit would be the same——For the selling our Manufactures

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in *America* at 100 *per Cent.* Advance, nay, tho' it were 500 *per Cent.* is not at all our Gain, while you lose as much back as you get out——And at the same time the People there pay double Price for their Goods.

And here I shall unfold some seeming Paradoxes in our *American* Trade.

1. He that gets 100 *per Cent.* out, and loses 50 *per Cent.* home, is a Loser by his Voyage.
2. He that gets 20 *per Cent.* out, and loses 10 *per Cent.* home, is a Gainer by his Voyage.
3. He that sells for 100 *per Cent.* out, but cannot return directly, shall get less by the Trade, than he that sells for 20 *per Cent.* out, and has a direct Return.

I think, I need not explain these Things here, and the Course of what I shall say upon this, in the Affair of our Plantation-Trade, will fully explain it— But that I am upon now is this; Can the Produce of *New England*, *New York*, &c. be so enlarg'd, and the Trade for it hither so encourag'd, as to give them a full Return for our Export of Manufactures to them at a *Par*, or but little Loss, you will then sell your Manufactures for 80 *per Cent.* less in Advance; and if you reduce them to that, you need never apprehend the People there falling into them?—— They can never do it, tho' you sent them a Million of People, for they can never under-work you.

What was the Reason, that in *Scotland*, after the Union open'd the Trade between the Nations, almost all the Attempts made there to set up the Woollen Manufactures, languish'd, and sunk to nothing; but because the *English* having the Materials more at hand, and being already in the Trade, crowded their Goods into *Scotland*; and tho' the *Scots* will work as cheap as any Body, yet under-sold them?

Whenever the Produce of *America*, whether Timber, Deal, Masts, Hemp, Flax, Pitch, Tar, Copper, or Iron, comes to be encourag'd here, so that the Quantities we take shall equal the Export, and bring the Trade to a reasonable Ballance, your Manufactures will be sold so reasonable in *America*, that it will never be worth their while to fall into them, I mean generally as a Trade— It is evident, that in all those Places they do knit, and spin, and weave both Linen and Woollen for their own Use——And there are Laws in *New England* to oblige every Family to spin so much Wool or Flax every Week, in the Country Villages especially, and the Parish-Officers are to inspect them.——But this is not the Case, every poor Family in *England* does the like, more or less, and yet the Obstruction to Trade from it, is not felt at all; but as to falling into Manufactures for Trade, and for supplying the Towns and Villages among themselves, much less to export——there will be no Danger at all of it——And the more you encrease their People, the less Danger of it——

These are some of the Reasons, why I cannot see into the Inconveniences of sending these poor Strangers to our *American* Plantations; I shall refer the farther Examination of these Things to a Head by it self——I confess, I am not for sending these People to *America* for other Reasons; one of which is, I am not for parting with them from hence——*But of that I have spoken already.*

I shall conclude this, with one Remark as to Trade—— The true Interest of general Commerce, I mean *OUR General Commerce*, is to encourage every Branch in its own proper Sphere—And put forward to their due Extent those Tools, which Nature has furnish'd every Country to work with—— It is my Opinion, with Submission to Demonstration, that every Climate, Nation, Country, and Place in the known World, has something provided, by which, subjoyn'd to the industrious Hand, it may both improve it self, and be useful to some other Part—— We have then no more to do, but to enquire, what is every Country's Peculiar, and lend our Hand to them to advance that Peculiar.

I need not range the Globe to bring you Examples for this——The Case is near you, and calls on you, both in Honesty and in Interest to regard it— I mean *Scotland*; for all my Applications will turn that Way.

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